

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wireless communication system (500) comprising:
provides a number plurality of communication resources;
for a plurality of mobile stations (512-516) utilizing the communication resources,
wherein ~~the wireless communication system~~ at least one of the plurality of mobile
stations is configured to employ a call gapping process; and ~~comprises~~
a ~~number~~ plurality of communication paths for routing a communication
initiated by one of said plurality of mobile stations (512-516) to a destination node; ~~the~~
~~wireless communication system characterised in that one or more of said plurality of~~
~~mobile stations (512-516) is configured to perform said call gapping process.~~
2. (currently amended) The wireless communication system (500) according to
Claim 1, wherein said call gapping process employed by said ~~one or more~~ at least one of
said plurality of mobile stations (512-516) is performed prior to normal communication,
~~to preventing~~ a call that would likely be unsuccessful from being initiated and sent from
said mobile station (512).
3. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 2,
wherein following a requested call being prevented from accessing the wireless
communication system (500), an indication is provided to a user that the
communication system is busy.

4. (currently amended) The wireless communication system (500) according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, wherein said communication system (500) ~~is further characterised by~~ comprises a communication device that determines when one or more address or destination node is overloaded, and in response to such a determination the communication device instructs ~~a~~ the plurality of mobile stations to initiate a self-regulating call gapping process for said one or more address or destination node.

5. (currently amended) The wireless communication system (500) according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ of said plurality of mobile stations (512-516) is sent a wireless message containing at least one ~~or more~~ call gapping instruction, ~~for example using a short message service.~~

6. (currently amended) The wireless communication system (500) according to Claim 5, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ call gapping instruction ~~comprises one or more of the following~~ is selected from one of the group of:

- (i) One or more address of a destination node;
- (ii) One or more telephone numbers;
- (iii) One or more call blocking rate; and ~~or~~
- (iv) A time-out value.

7. (currently amended) The wireless communication system (500) according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, wherein said wireless communication system (500) is one of a GSM ~~or~~, GPRS, ~~or~~ UMTS, IS-95, and CDMA2000 communication system, and a personal computer employing voice over Internet Protocol.

8-12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system (~~700, 800, 900~~), the method comprising the steps of:

invoking a call gapping mode of operation; and

~~the method characterised by the step of:~~

performing (~~900~~) said call gapping process in a wireless communication unit operating in said wireless communication system.

14. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claim 13, ~~the method further characterised by~~ comprising the step of:

indicating to a user that the communication system is busy following a requested call being prevented from accessing the wireless communication system (~~500~~).

15. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claim 13 ~~or Claim 14~~, the method further ~~characterised by~~ comprising the steps of:

determining when one or more address or destination node is overloaded; and

instructing a plurality of mobile stations to initiate a self-regulating call gapping process for said one or more address or destination node, in response to such a determination.

16. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to ~~any of preceding Claims 13 to 15~~, the method further ~~characterised by~~ comprising the step of sending a wireless message to ~~said at least one or more of said~~ a plurality of mobile stations, wherein said message contains at least one or more call gapping instructions.

17. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to ~~any of preceding Claims 13 to 16~~, wherein said message contains at least one or more call gapping instruction ~~comprises one or more of the following selected from the group of:~~

- (i) One or more address of a destination node;
- (ii) One or more telephone numbers;
- (iii) One or more call blocking rate; and/or
- (iv) A time-out value.

18. (cancelled)